



# Chapel's Multiresolution Programming Model

## Mixing High-level Parallel Abstractions with Lower-level Control

**Brad Chamberlain, Chapel Team, Cray Inc.**

**Northwest C++ Users Group**

**February 21, 2018**



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# Safe Harbor Statement



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# What is Chapel?



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# What is Chapel?



**Chapel:** A productive parallel programming language

- portable
- open-source
- a collaborative effort



## Goals:

- Support general parallel programming
  - “any parallel algorithm on any parallel hardware”
- Make parallel programming at scale far more productive



# Scalable Parallel Programming Concerns



**Q:** What do HPC programmers need from a language?

**A:** *Serial Code:* Software engineering and performance

*Parallelism:* What should execute simultaneously?

*Locality:* Where should those tasks execute?

*Mapping:* How to map the program to the system?

*Separation of Concerns:* Decouple these issues

*Chapel is a language designed to address these needs  
from first principles*



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# Chapel and Other Languages

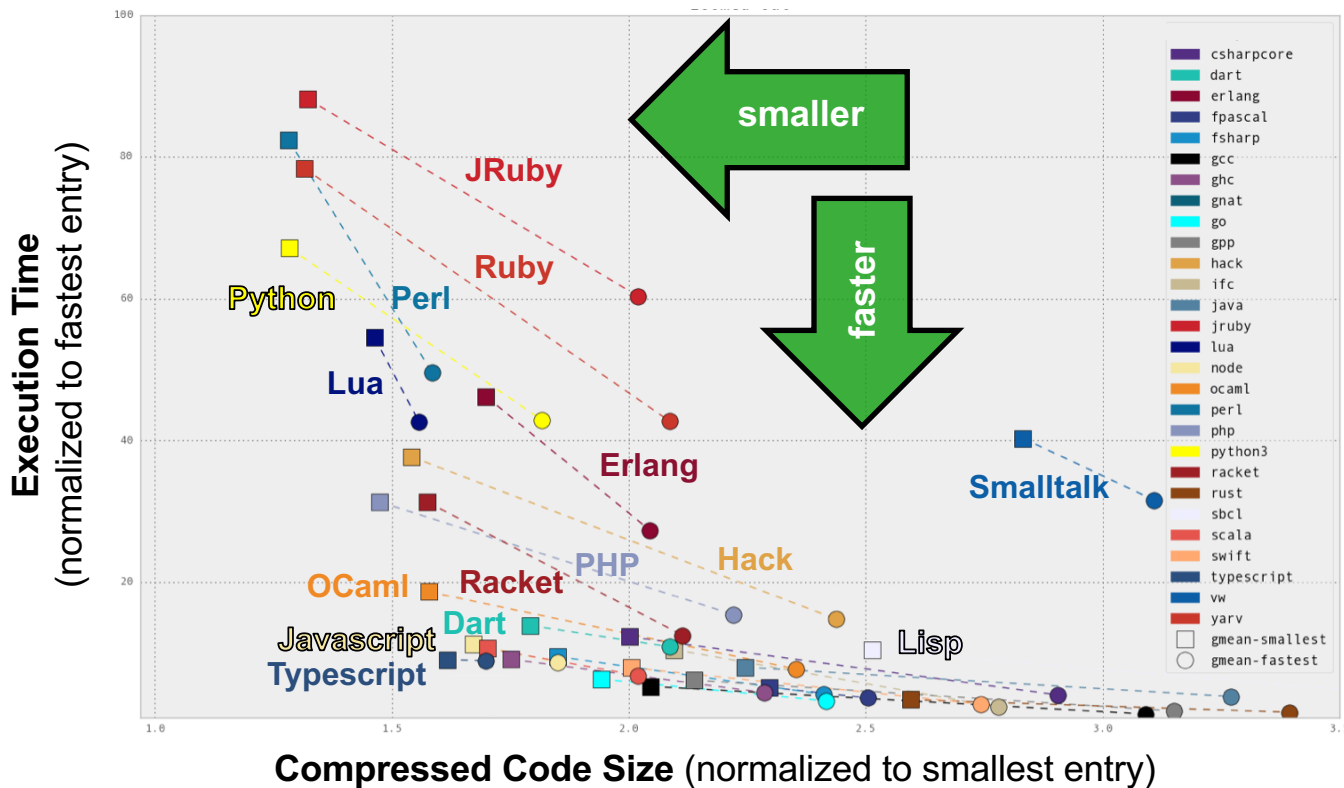
## Chapel strives to be as...

- ...**programmable** as Python
- ...**fast** as Fortran
- ...**scalable** as MPI, SHMEM, or UPC
- ...**portable** as C
- ...**flexible** as C++
- ...**fun** as [your favorite programming language]



# CLBG Cross-Language Summary

(Oct 2017 standings)



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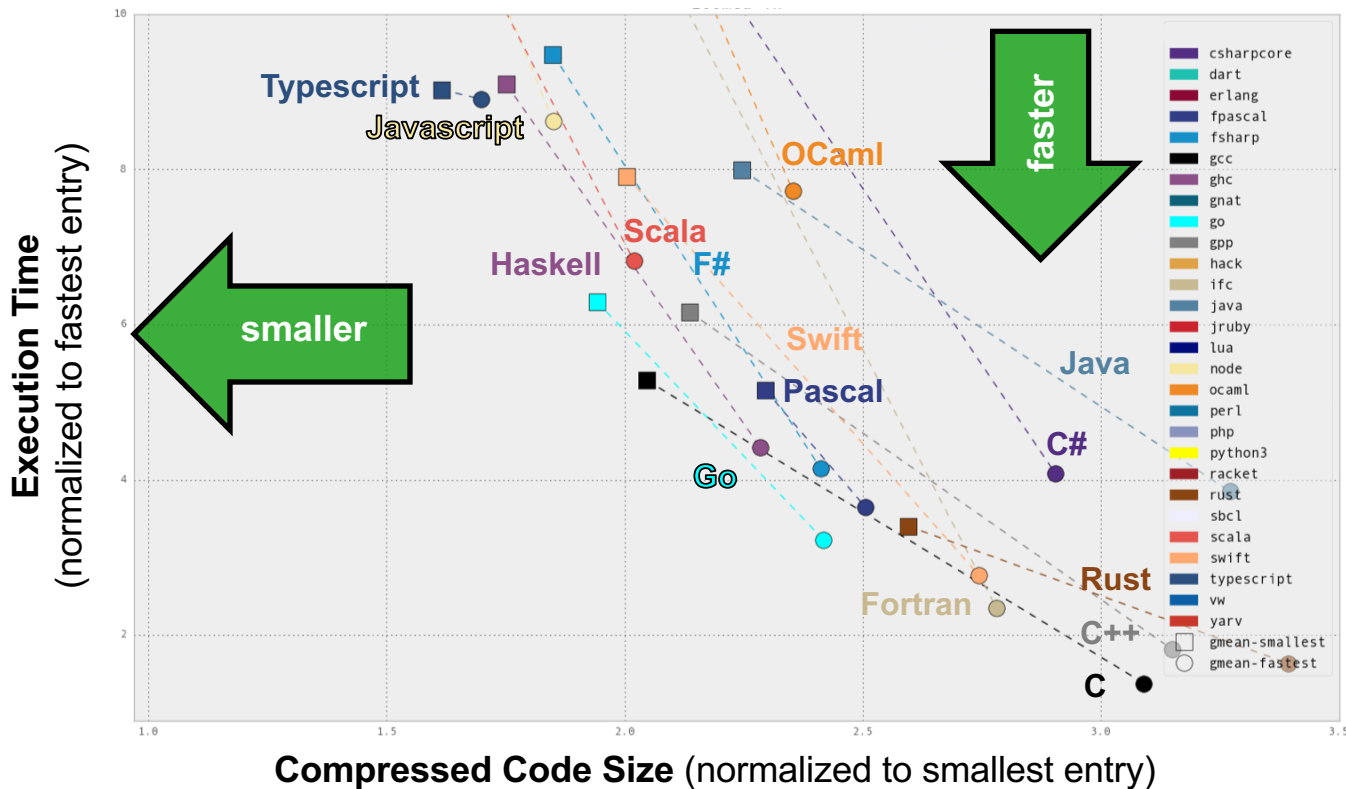
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# CLBG Cross-Language Summary

(Oct 2017 standings, zoomed in)



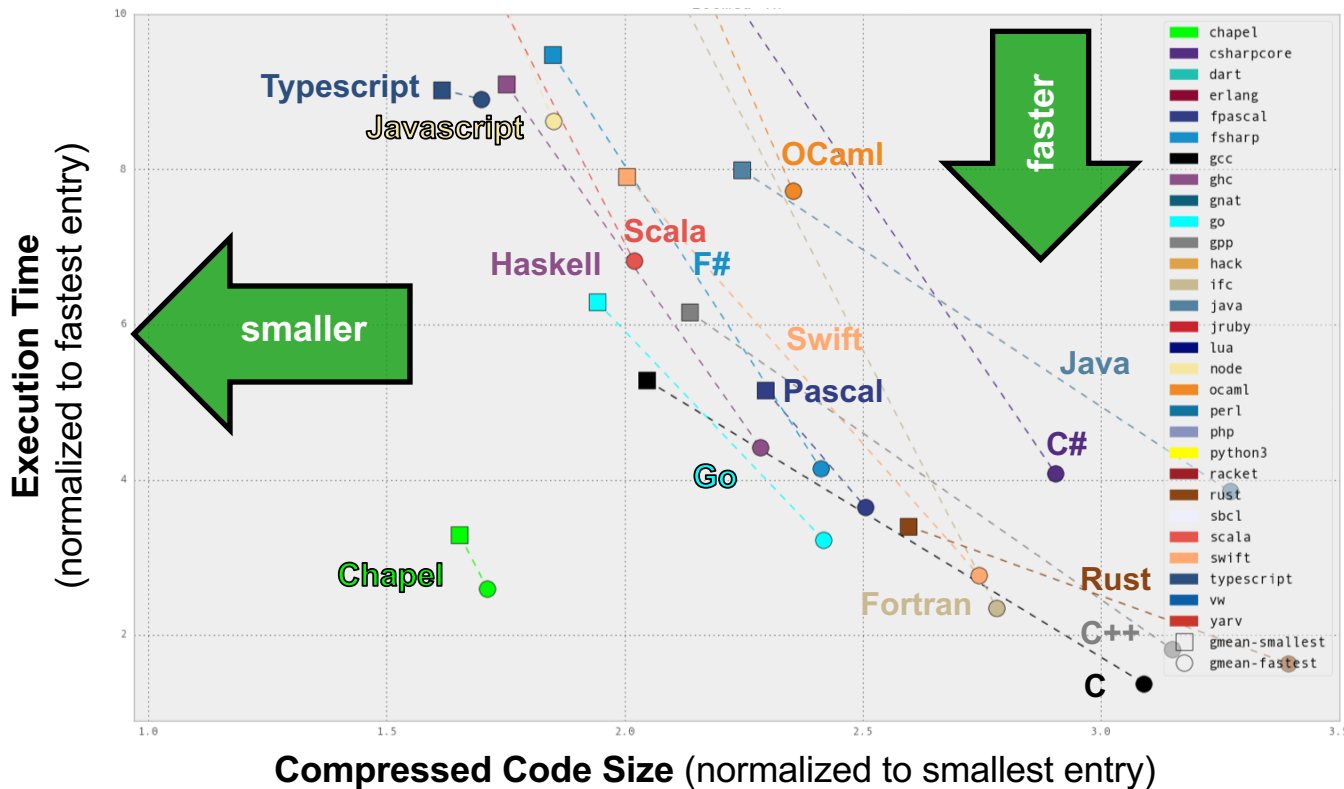
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# CLBG Cross-Language Summary

(Oct 2017 standings, zoomed in)



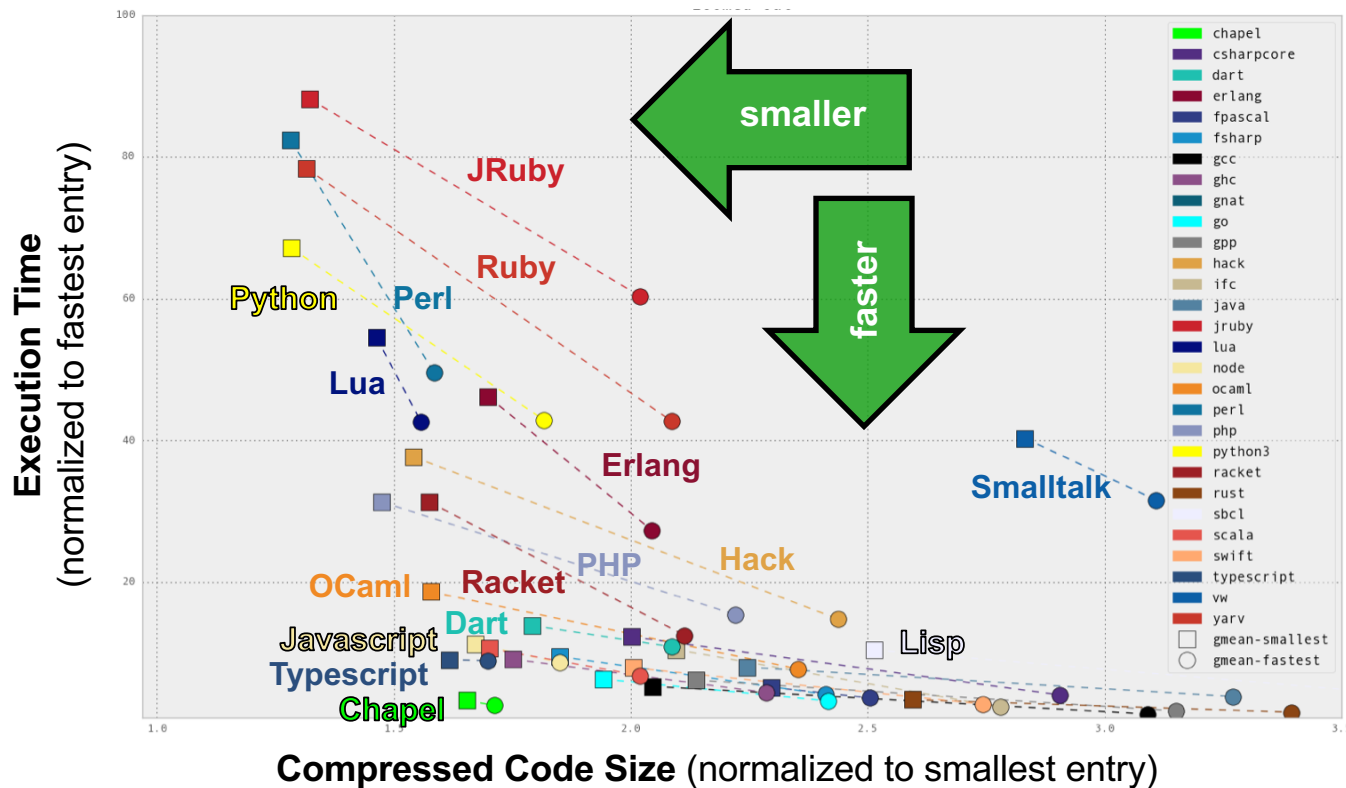
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# CLBG Cross-Language Summary

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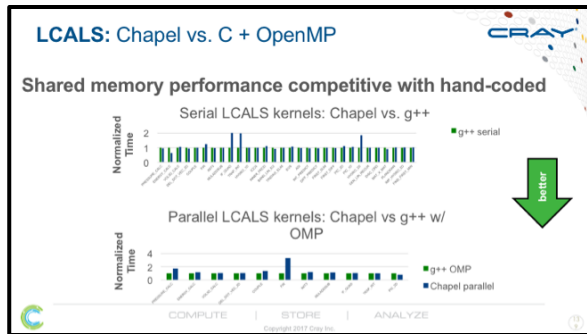
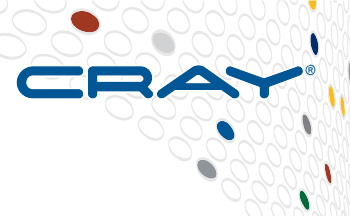


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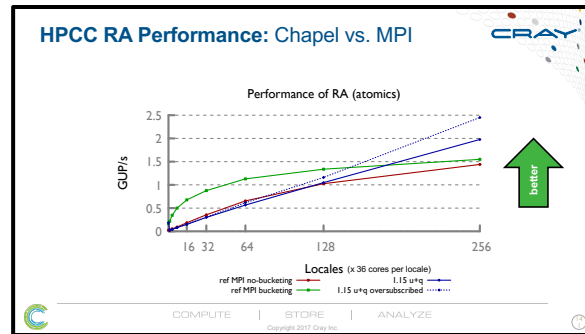
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# Chapel Performance: HPC Benchmarks



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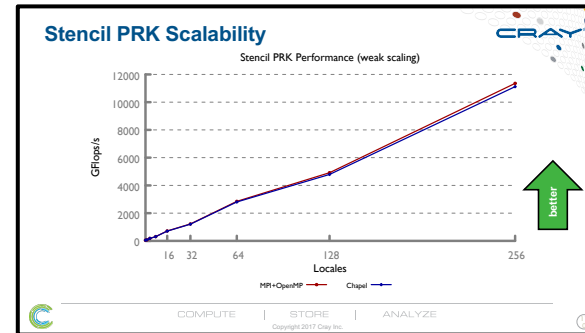
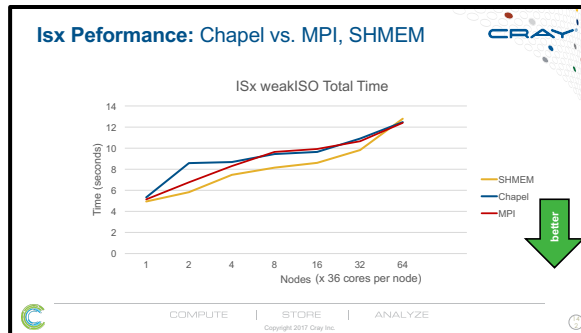
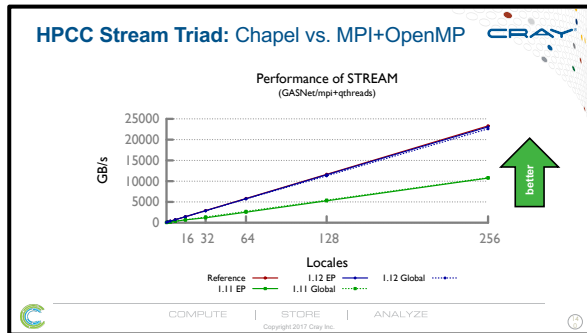
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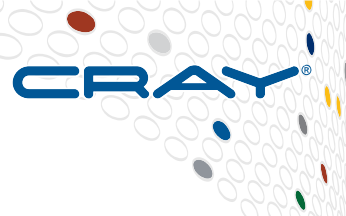
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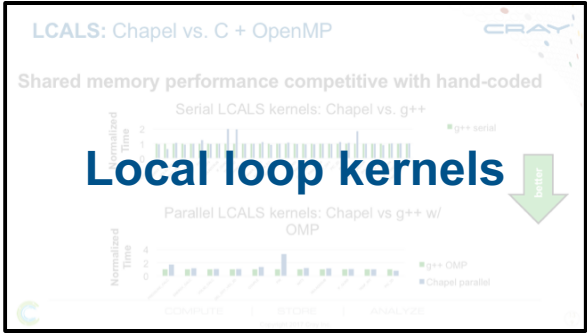
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Nightly performance graphs online  
at: <https://chapel-lang.org/perf>

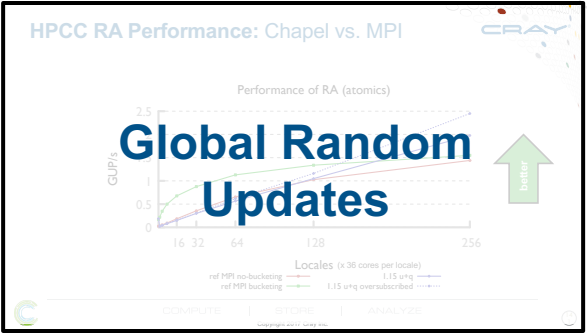


# Chapel Performance: HPC Benchmarks



LCALS

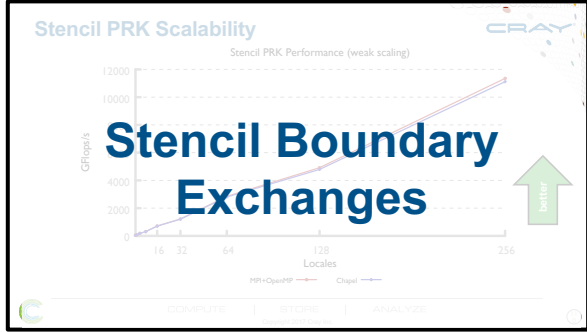
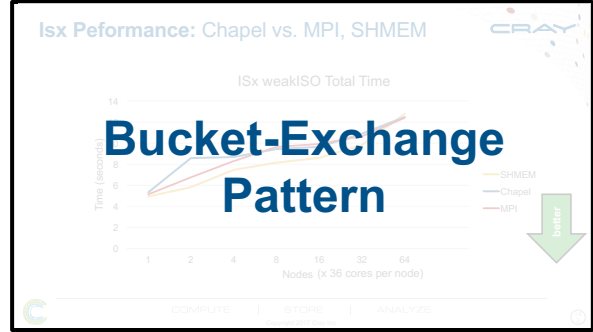
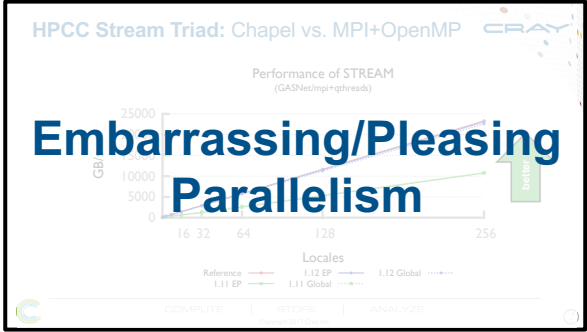
HPCC RA



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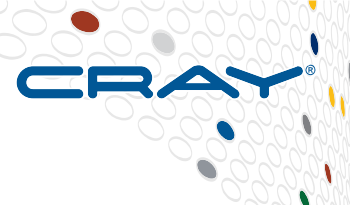
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Nightly performance graphs online at: <https://chapel-lang.org/perf>

# The Chapel Team at Cray (May 2017)



14 full-time employees + ~2 summer interns



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# Chapel Community Partners



Lawrence Berkeley  
National Laboratory



Sandia National Laboratories



Yale

(and several others...)

<https://chapel-lang.org/collaborations.html>



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# Tonight's Plan



- **Cover features that we haven't in this forum before**
  - base language features of potential interest to C++ users
  - multiresolution features for user control over parallel abstractions
    - parallel iterators
    - domain maps
    - locale models
- **Review core features along the way**
  - goal: quicker than in previous talks
  - help refresh memories / bring new attendees up-to-speed
- **Please ask questions as we go**



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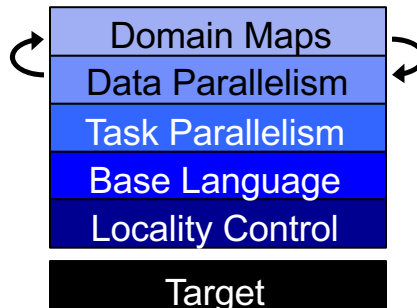
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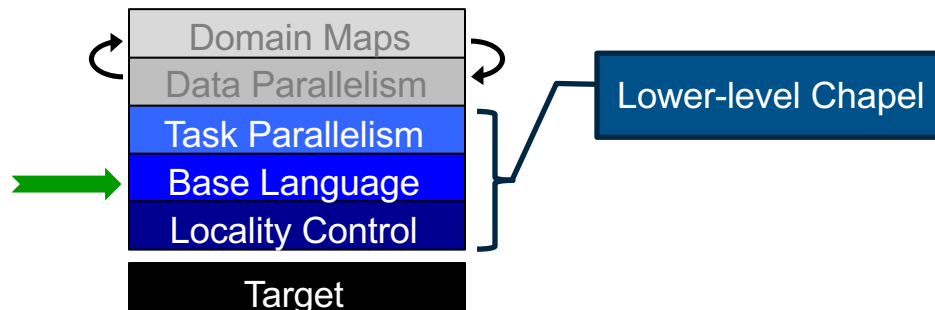
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# Chapel language feature areas

*Chapel language concepts*



# Base Language



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# Base Language Features, by example

```
iter fib(n) {  
  var current = 0,  
      next = 1;  
  
  for i in 1..n {  
    yield current;  
    current += next;  
    current <=> next;  
  }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for f in fib(n) do  
  writeln(f);
```

```
0  
1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
...
```



# Base Language Features, by example



Configuration declarations  
(to avoid command-line argument parsing)  
`./a.out --n=1000000`

```
iter fib(n) {  
  var current = 0,  
      next = 1;  
  
  for i in 1..n {  
    yield current;  
    current += next;  
    current <=> next;  
  }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for f in fib(n) do  
  writeln(f);
```

```
0  
1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
...
```



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# Base Language Features, by example



## Modern iterators

```
iter fib(n) {  
    var current = 0,  
        next = 1;  
  
    for i in 1..n {  
        yield current;  
        current += next;  
        current <=> next;  
    }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for f in fib(n) do  
    writeln(f);
```

```
0  
1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
...
```



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# Base Language Features, by example



Static type inference for:

- arguments
- return types
- variables

```
iter fib(n) {  
  var current = 0,  
      next = 1;  
  
  for i in 1..n {  
    yield current;  
    current += next;  
    current <=> next;  
  }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for f in fib(n) do  
  writeln(f);
```

```
0  
1  
1  
2  
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5  
8  
...
```



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# Base Language Features, by example

Zippered iteration

```
iter fib(n) {  
    var current = 0,  
        next = 1;  
  
    for i in 1..n {  
        yield current;  
        current += next;  
        current <=> next;  
    }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for (i,f) in zip(0..#n, fib(n)) do  
    writeln("fib #", i, " is ", f);
```

```
fib #0 is 0  
fib #1 is 1  
fib #2 is 1  
fib #3 is 2  
fib #4 is 3  
fib #5 is 5  
fib #6 is 8  
...
```



# Base Language Features, by example

## Range types and operators

```
iter fib(n) {  
    var current = 0;  
    next = 1;  
  
    for i in 1..n {  
        yield current;  
        current += next;  
        current <=> next;  
    }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for (i,f) in zip(0..#n, fib(n)) do  
    writeln("fib #", i, " is ", f);
```

```
fib #0 is 0  
fib #1 is 1  
fib #2 is 1  
fib #3 is 2  
fib #4 is 3  
fib #5 is 5  
fib #6 is 8  
...
```



# Base Language Features, by example

tuples

```
iter fib(n) {  
    var current = 0,  
        next = 1;  
  
    for i in 1..n {  
        yield current;  
        current += next;  
        current <=> next;  
    }  
}
```

```
config const n = 10;  
  
for (i,f) in zip(0..#n, fib(n)) do  
    writeln("fib #", i, " is ", f);
```

```
fib #0 is 0  
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fib #5 is 5  
fib #6 is 8  
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# Base Language Features, by example

```
iter fib(n) {  
  var current = 0,  
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  for i in 1..n {  
    yield current;  
    current += next;  
    current <=> next;  
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config const n = 10;  
  
for (i,f) in zip(0..#n, fib(n)) do  
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```

```
fib #0 is 0  
fib #1 is 1  
fib #2 is 1  
fib #3 is 2  
fib #4 is 3  
fib #5 is 5  
fib #6 is 8  
...
```



# Other Base Language Features of Potential Interest to C++ Users



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# Other Base Language Features: OOP



## Two flavors of object-oriented types:

- Value-based:

```
record Circle {  
    var radius: real;  
    proc area() { ... }  
}
```

- Reference-based:

```
class Circle {  
    var radius: real;  
    proc area() { ... }  
}
```

```
var myCircle = new Circle(radius = 1.0),  
    myCircle2 = myCircle;    // copy for record, alias for class  
myCircle.radius = 2.0;  
writeln(myCircle2.area()); // 1.0 for record, 4.0 for class
```



# Other Base Language Features: Generics



- Support for generic types and functions

- w.r.t. types and statically known values (`param`s)

```
class Arr {  
    param numDims: int;           // number of dimensions  
    type eltType;                 // element type  
    var size: numDims*int;       // tuple storing per-dimension size  
}
```

```
var myArr  = new Arr(2, string, (100, 200)),  
    myArr2 = new Arr(3, real, (500, 500, 500));
```



# Other Base Language Features: Generics



- Support for generic types and functions

- w.r.t. types and statically known values (`param`s)

```
proc mypow(type t, x: t, param exponent: int) {  
    var result = 1:t;  
    for param i in 1..exponent do  
        result *= x;  
    return result;  
}
```

note: this is an utterly artificial and over-engineered way to write this function in Chapel, done merely to demonstrate type/param args in ~6 lines...

```
var twoSquared = mypow(int, 2, 2);  
var piCubed = mypow(real, 3.14159265, 3);
```



- **Compile-time procedures to compute types / params**

```
proc computePacketSize(type t1, type t2) param {  
    return numBits(t1) + numBits(t2);  
}  
  
proc c_intToChapelInt() type {  
    return int(numBits(c_int));  
}
```

- Also, support for config types / params

```
config param bitsPerInt = 16;  
config type eltType = int(bitsPerInt);
```

```
chpl -sbitsPerInt=64 -selType=real(32) myProg.chpl
```



- Ability to unroll loops / fold conditionals or ‘void’ exprs

```
for param i in (1, 2.3, "hello", (5,7)) do  
  writeln("i: " , i, " has type: ", i.type:string);
```

- Reflection module:

- “Can this function / method be resolved”
- “Iterate over all fields in this record giving me their names / types”
- ...





# Other Base Language Features

- **Error-handling**
- **Modules (namespaces)**
- **Overloading, filtering**
- **Default args, arg intents, keyword-based arg passing**
- **Argument type queries / pattern-matching**
- **...**

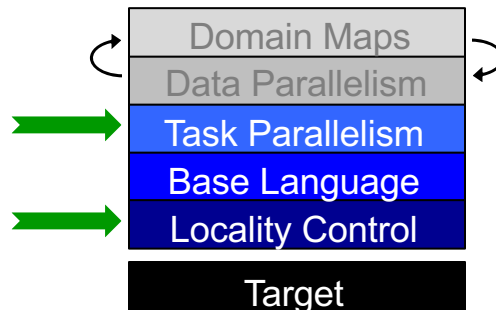


# Base Language Features: What's Missing?

- **better initializer (constructor) features**
  - currently being implemented and refined
- **delete-free programming / borrow-checking**
  - currently being designed and implemented
- **first-class functions**
  - prototyped, need strengthening
- **constrained generics / interfaces / concepts**
  - proposal drafted but not implemented
- **anti-function hijacking features**
  - currently under consideration



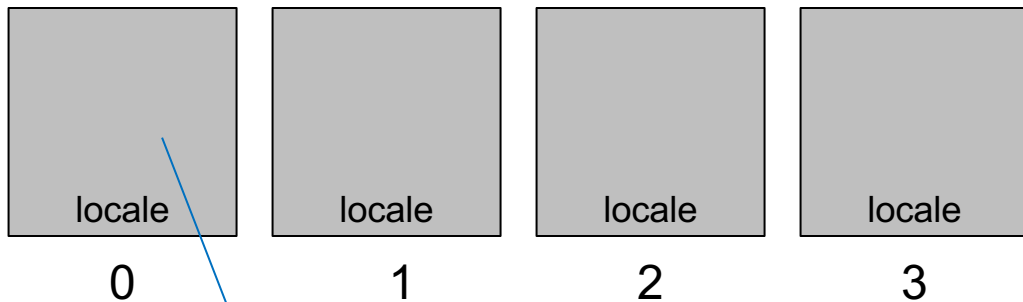
# Task Parallelism and Locality Control





- Unit of the target system useful for reasoning about locality
  - Each locale can run tasks and store variables
    - Has processors and memory (or can defer to something that does)
  - For most HPC systems, locale == compute node

**Locales:**



User's main() executes on locale #0



# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

taskParallel.chpl

```
coforall loc in Locales do
  on loc {
    const numTasks = here.numPUs();
    coforall tid in 1..numTasks do
      writef("Hello from task %n of %n "+
            "running on %s\n",
            tid, numTasks, here.name);
    }
```

```
prompt> chpl taskParallel.chpl -o taskParallel
prompt> ./taskParallel --numLocales=2
Hello from task 1 of 2 running on n1033
Hello from task 2 of 2 running on n1032
Hello from task 2 of 2 running on n1033
Hello from task 1 of 2 running on n1032
```



# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

Abstraction of  
System Resources

taskParallel.chpl

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# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

High-Level  
Task Parallelism

taskParallel.chpl

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            tid, numTasks, here.name);
  }
```

Control of Locality/Affinity

```
prompt> chpl taskParallel.chpl -o taskParallel
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# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

Abstraction of  
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# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

High-Level  
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Hello from task 2 of 2 running on n1033
Hello from task 1 of 2 running on n1032
```



# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

Not seen here:

Data-centric task coordination  
via atomic and full/empty vars

taskParallel.chpl

```
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  on loc {
    const numTasks = here.numPUs();
    coforall tid in 1..numTasks do
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            tid, numTasks, here.name);
    }
```

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```



# Task Parallelism and Locality, by example

taskParallel.chpl

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            tid, numTasks, here.name);
    }
```

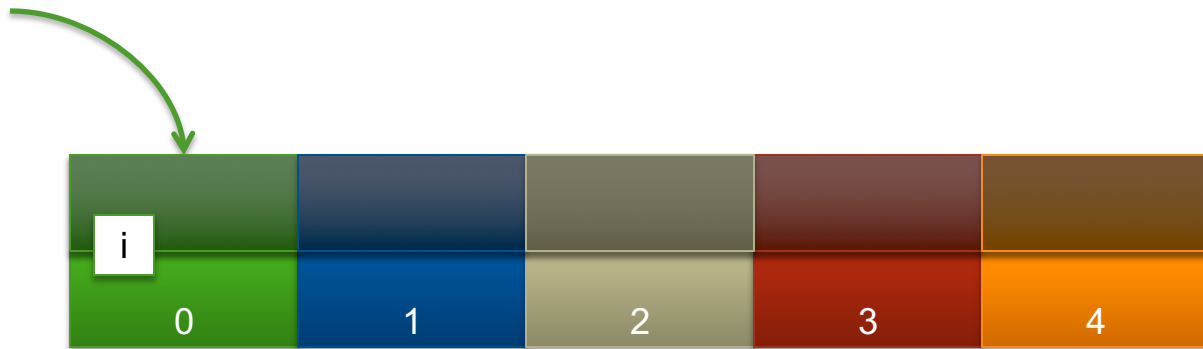
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prompt> chpl taskParallel.chpl -o taskParallel
prompt> ./taskParallel --numLocales=2
Hello from task 1 of 2 running on n1033
Hello from task 2 of 2 running on n1032
Hello from task 2 of 2 running on n1033
Hello from task 1 of 2 running on n1032
```



# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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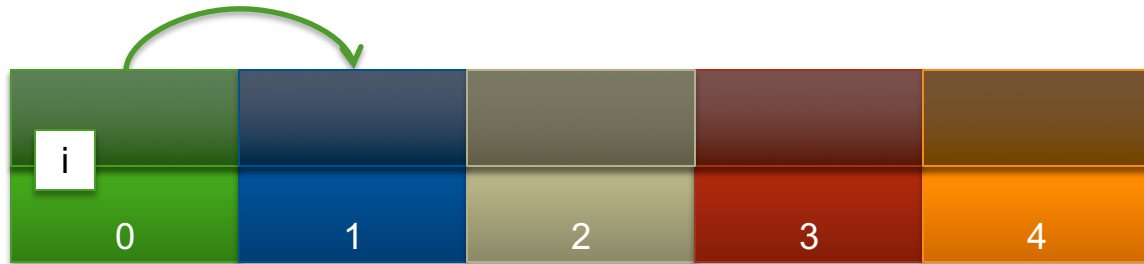
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# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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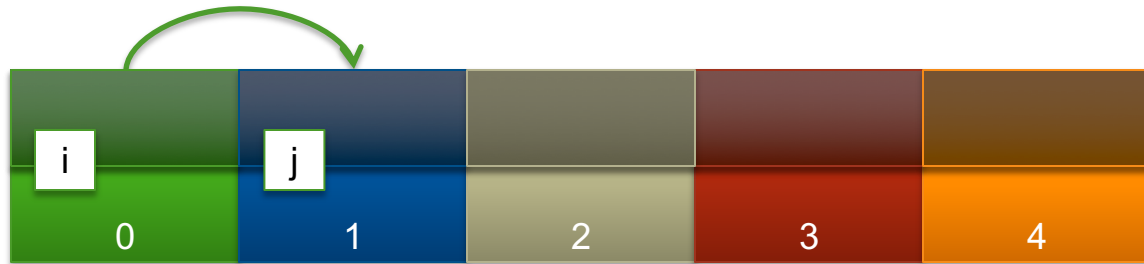
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# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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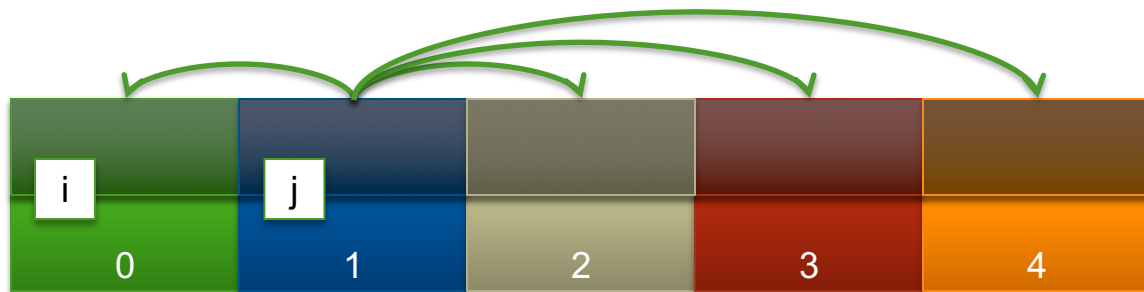
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# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;  
  coforall loc in Locales {  
    on loc {
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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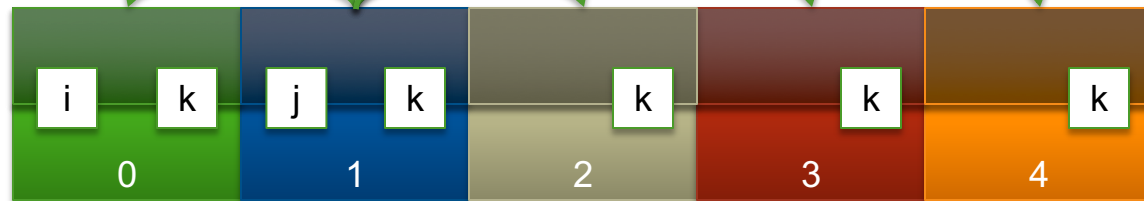
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# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;  
  coforall loc in Locales {  
    on loc {  
      var k: int;  
      ...  
    }  
  }  
}
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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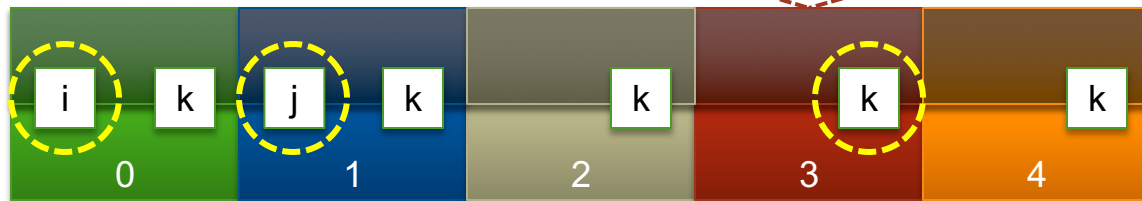
# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



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on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;  
  coforall loc in Locales {  
    on loc {  
      var k: int;  
      k = 2*i + j;  
    }  
  }  
}
```

OK to access  $i, j$ , and  $k$   
wherever they live

$k = 2*i + j;$



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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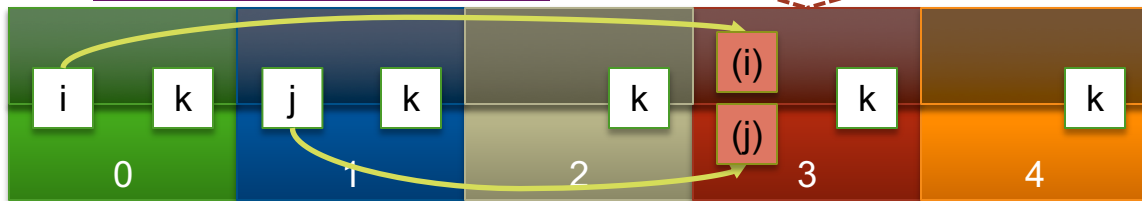
# Chapel: Scoping and Locality



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;  
  coforall loc in Locales {  
    on loc {  
      var k: int;  
      k = 2*i + j;  
    }  
  }  
}
```

here,  $i$  and  $j$  are remote, so  
the compiler + runtime will  
transfer their values

$k = 2*i + j;$



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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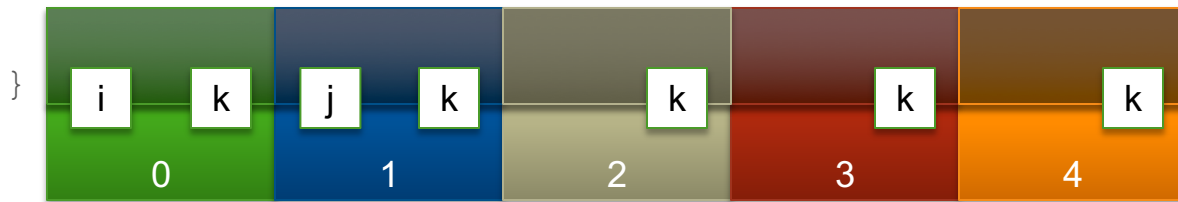
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# Chapel: Locality queries



```
var i: int;  
on Locales[1] {  
  var j: int;  
  coforall loc in Locales {  
    on loc {  
      ...here...           // query the locale on which this task is running  
      ...j.locale...       // query the locale on which j is stored  
      ...here.physicalMemory(...) ... // query system characteristics  
      ...here.runningTasks() ...     // query runtime characteristics  
    }  
  }  
}
```



*Locales* (think: “compute nodes”)

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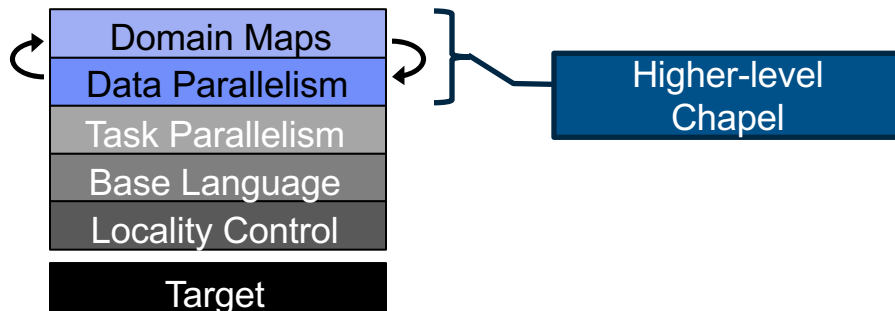
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# Data Parallelism in Chapel



*Chapel language concepts*



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# Data Parallelism, by example

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
prompt> chpl dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel  
prompt> ./dataParallel --n=5  
1.1 1.3 1.5 1.7 1.9  
2.1 2.3 2.5 2.7 2.9  
3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9  
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Data Parallelism, by example

Domains (Index Sets)

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
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5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Data Parallelism, by example

Arrays

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
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4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Data Parallelism, by example

Data-Parallel Forall Loops

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
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4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Data Parallelism, by example

This is a shared memory program

Nothing has referred to remote locales, explicitly or implicitly

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
    A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
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4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Data Parallelism, by example

This is a shared memory program

Nothing has referred to remote locales, explicitly or implicitly

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

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3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9  
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Distributed Data Parallelism, by example



Domain Maps  
(Map Data Parallelism to the System)

dataParallel.chpl

```
use CyclicDist;  
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n}  
      dmapped Cyclic(startIdx = (1,1));  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
prompt> chpl dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel  
prompt> ./dataParallel --n=5 --numLocales=4  
1.1 1.3 1.5 1.7 1.9  
2.1 2.3 2.5 2.7 2.9  
3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9  
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Distributed Data Parallelism, by example

magic!

HPF-like!

descriptive!

## Not at all...

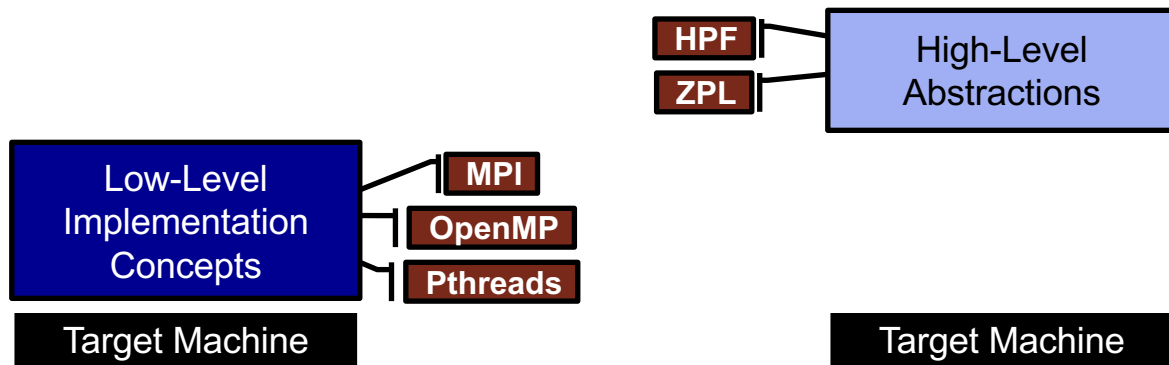
- Lowering of code is well-defined
- User can control details
- Part of Chapel's *multiresolution philosophy*...

dataParallel.chpl

```
use CyclicDist;
config const n = 1000;
var D = {1..n, 1..n}
      dmapped Cyclic(startIdx = (1,1));
var A: [D] real;
forall (i,j) in D do
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;
writeln(A);
```

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prompt> chpl dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel
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1.1 1.3 1.5 1.7 1.9
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3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```

# Chapel's Multiresolution Design: Motivation



*“Why is everything so tedious/difficult?”*

*“Why don’t my programs trivially port to new systems?”*

*“Why don’t I have more control?”*

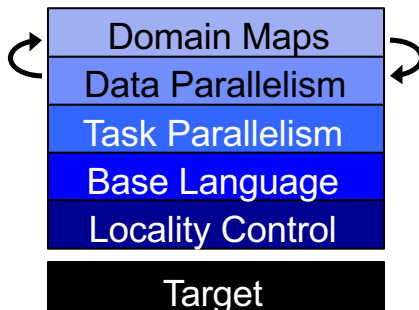


# Chapel's Multiresolution Philosophy



## ***Multiresolution Design:*** Support multiple tiers of features

- higher levels for programmability, productivity
- lower levels for greater degrees of control



- build the higher-level concepts in terms of the lower
- permit users to intermix layers arbitrarily



# Distributed Data Parallelism, by example



## Chapel's prescriptive approach:

```
forall (i,j) in D do...
```

⇒ invoke and inline D's  
default parallel iterator

- defined by D's type /  
domain map

### default domain map

- create a task per local core
- block indices across tasks

dataParallel.chpl

```
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n};  
  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
    A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
prompt> chpl dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel  
prompt> ./dataParallel --n=5 --numLocales=4  
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3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9  
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



# Distributed Data Parallelism, by example



## Chapel's prescriptive approach:

```
forall (i,j) in D do...
```

⇒ invoke and inline D's  
default parallel iterator

- defined by D's type /  
domain map

**default domain map**

**cyclic domain map**

on each target locale...

- create a task per core
- block local indices across  
tasks

dataParallel.chpl

```
use CyclicDist;  
config const n = 1000;  
var D = {1..n, 1..n}  
        dmapped Cyclic(startIdx = (1,1));  
var A: [D] real;  
forall (i,j) in D do  
    A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;  
writeln(A);
```

```
prompt> chpl dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel  
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3.1 3.3 3.5 3.7 3.9  
4.1 4.3 4.5 4.7 4.9  
5.1 5.3 5.5 5.7 5.9
```



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# Distributed Data Parallelism, by example



## Chapel's prescriptive approach:

```
forall (i,j) in D do...
```

What if I don't like D's iteration strategy?

dataParallel.chpl

```
use CyclicDist;
config const n = 1000;
var D = {1..n, 1..n}
      dmapped Cyclic(startIdx = (1,1));
var A: [D] real;
forall (i,j) in D do
  A[i,j] = i + (j - 0.5)/n;
```

- Write and call your own parallel iterator:

```
forall (i,j) in myParIter(D) do...
```

- Or, use a different domain map:

```
var D = {1..n, 1..n} dmapped Block(...);
```

- Or, write and use your own domain map:

```
var D = {1..n, 1..n} dmapped MyDomMap(...);
```

```
dataParallel.chpl -o dataParallel
./dataParallel --n=5 --numLocales=4
```



# Write and Call Your Own Parallel Iterator



---

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# Authoring Parallel Iterators



- Similar to serial iterators, but invoked by `forall` loops
  - Unlike serial iterators, these can contain parallel constructs

```
forall i in myParIter(D) { ... }
```

invokes:

```
iter myParIter(dom: domain, ... /* tag as a parallel iterator */) {  
  coforall tid in 0..#numTasks {  
    const myChunk = computeChunk(dom, tid, numTasks);  
    for i in myChunk do  
      yield i;  
  }  
}
```



# Authoring Zippered Parallel Iterators



- Parallel iterators can also support zippered iteration

```
forall (i,j) in zip(myParIter(D), A) { ... }
```

- defined in terms of leader...

```
iter myParIter(dom: domain, ...) {  
  coforall tid in 0..#numTasks do  
    yield computeChunk(dom, tid, numTasks);  
}
```

...and follower iterators:

```
iter myParIter(dom: domain, followThis, ...) {  
  for i in followThis do yield i;  
}
```



# Use a Different Domain Map



---

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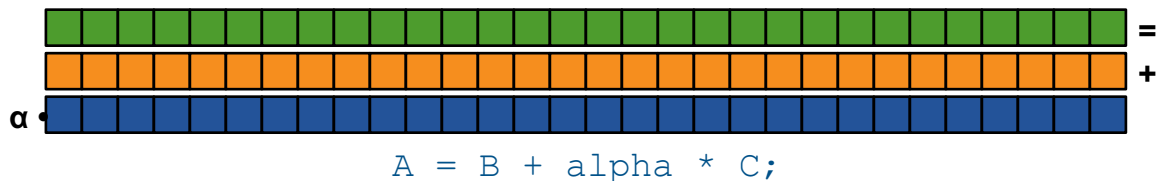
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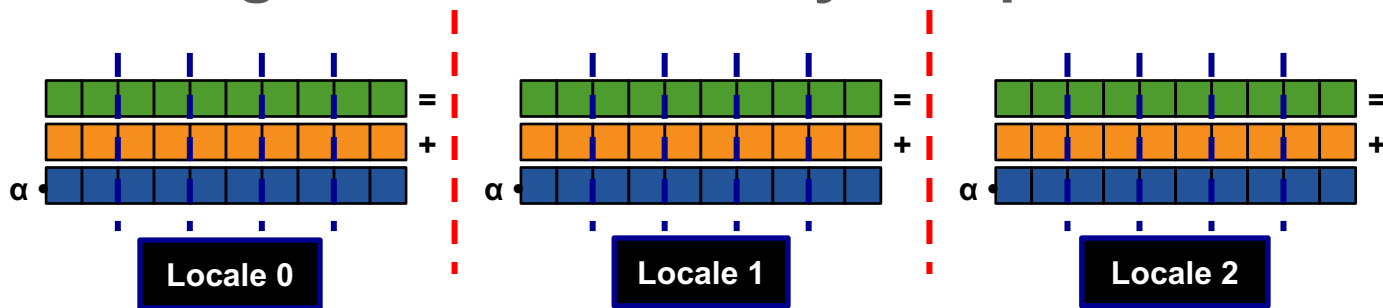
# Domain Maps: A Multiresolution Feature



Domain maps are “recipes” that instruct the compiler how to map the global view of a computation...



...to the target locales' memory and processors:



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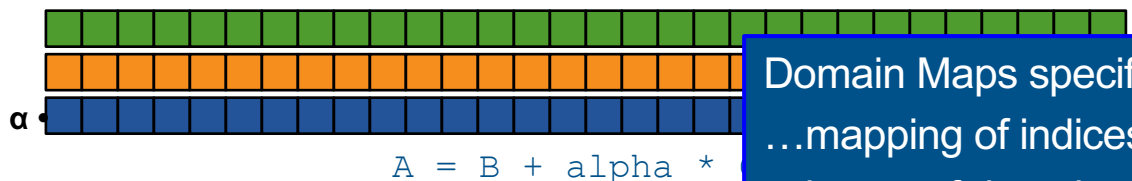
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# Domain Maps: A Multiresolution Feature



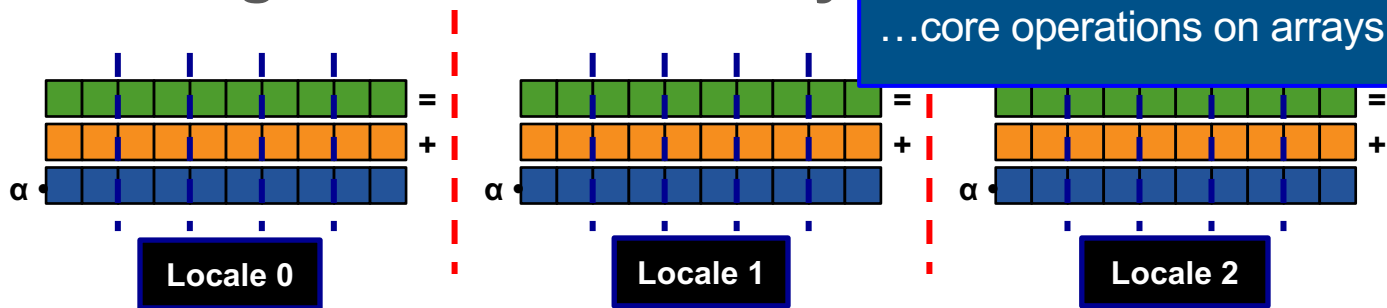
Domain maps are “recipes” that instruct the compiler how to map the global view of a computation...



Domain Maps specify...

- ...mapping of indices to locales
- ...layout of domains / arrays in memory
- ...parallel iteration strategies
- ...core operations on arrays / domains

...to the target locales' memory



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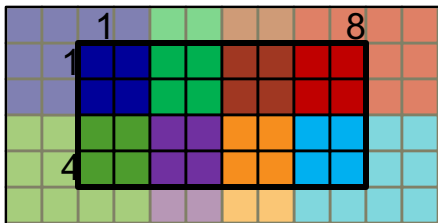
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# Sample Domain Maps: Block and Cyclic



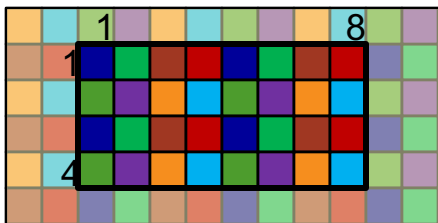
```
var Dom = {1..4, 1..8} dmapped Block( {1..4, 1..8} );
```



*distributed to*



```
var Dom = {1..4, 1..8} dmapped Cyclic( startIdx=(1,1) );
```



*distributed to*



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# Write and Use Your Own Domain Map



---

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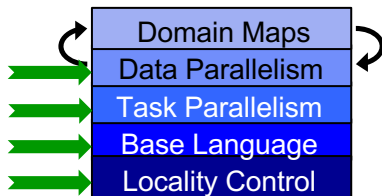
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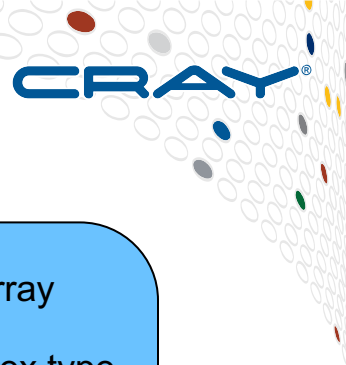
# Chapel's Domain Map Philosophy

1. Chapel provides a library of standard domain maps
  - to support common array implementations effortlessly
2. Expert users can write their own domain maps in Chapel
  - to cope with any shortcomings in our standard library



3. Chapel's standard domain maps are written using the end-user framework
  - to avoid a performance cliff between “built-in” and user-defined cases
  - in fact every Chapel array is implemented using this framework





# Domain Map Descriptors

## Domain Map

**Represents:** a domain map value

**Generic w.r.t.:** index type

**State:** the domain map's representation

**Typical Size:**  $\Theta(1) \rightarrow \Theta(\text{numLocales})$

**Required Interface:**

- create new domains
- which locale owns index  $i$ ?

## Domain

**Represents:** a domain

**Generic w.r.t.:** index type

**State:** representation of index set

**Typical Size:**  $\Theta(1) \rightarrow \Theta(\text{numIndices})$

**Required Interface:**

- create new arrays
- queries: size, members
- iterators: serial, parallel
- domain assignment
- index set operations

## Array

**Represents:** an array

**Generic w.r.t.:** index type, element type

**State:** array elements

**Typical Size:**  $\Theta(\text{numIndices})$

**Required Interface:**

- (re-)allocation of elements
- random access
- iterators: serial, parallel
- get/set of sparse “zero” values
- ...



# Chapel and Performance Portability



- **Avoid locking key policy decisions into the language**
  - Array memory layout?
  - Sparse storage format?
  - Parallel loop policies?



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# Chapel and Performance Portability



- **Avoid locking key policy decisions into the language**
  - Array memory layout? **not defined by Chapel**
  - Sparse storage format? **not defined by Chapel**
  - Parallel loop policies? **not defined by Chapel**
  - Abstract node architecture? **not defined by Chapel**
- **Instead, permit users to specify these in Chapel itself**
  - support performance portability through...
    - ...a separation of concerns
    - ...abstractions—known to the compiler, and therefore optimizable
  - **goal:** make Chapel a future-proof language



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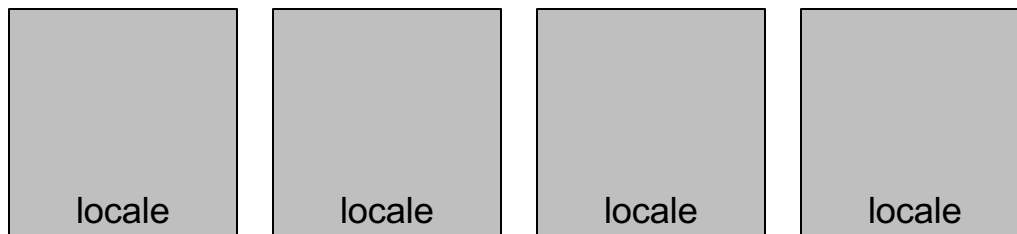
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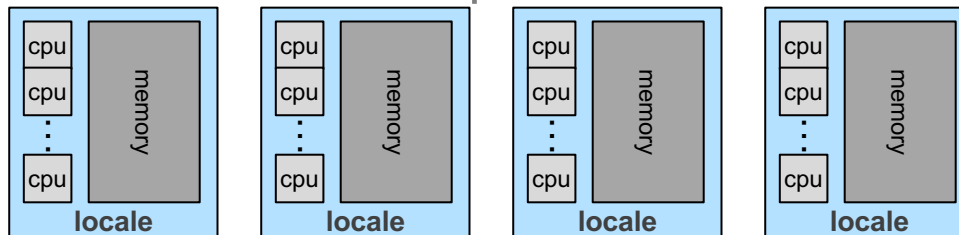
# Classic Locales



- **Historically, Chapel's locales were black boxes**
  - Intra-node concerns handled by compiler, runtime, OS



- This was sufficient when compute nodes were simple



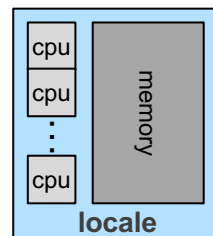
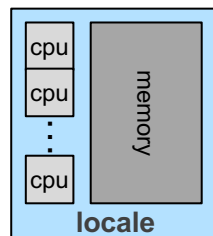
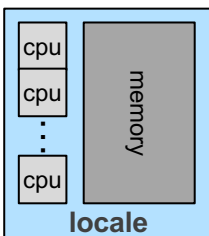
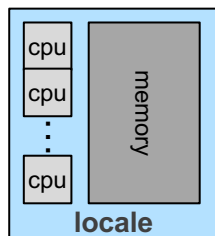
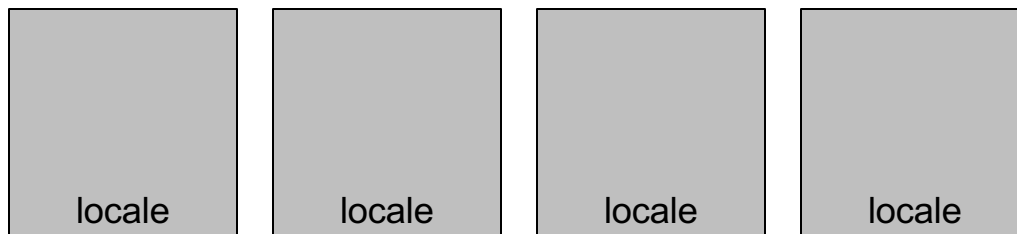
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# Classic Locales



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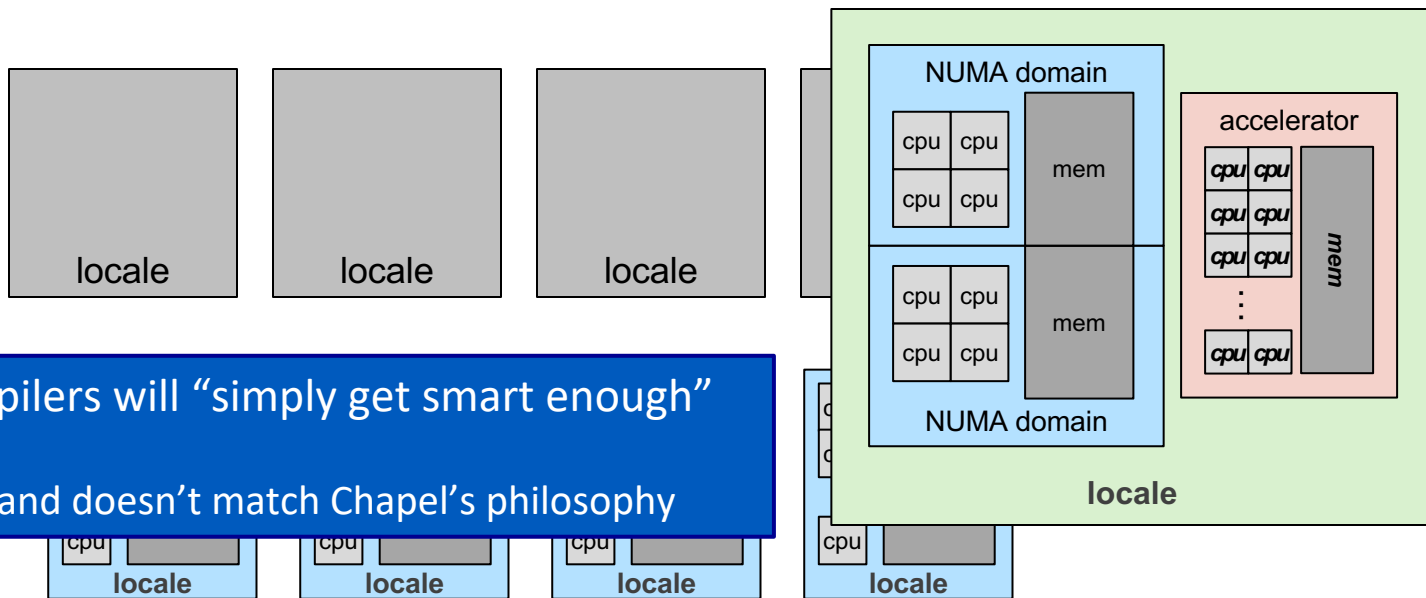
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# Classic Loci



- **Classic model breaks down for more complex cases**
  - E.g. multiple flavors of memory or processors



Could hope compilers will “simply get smart enough”

...but seems naïve and doesn't match Chapel's philosophy



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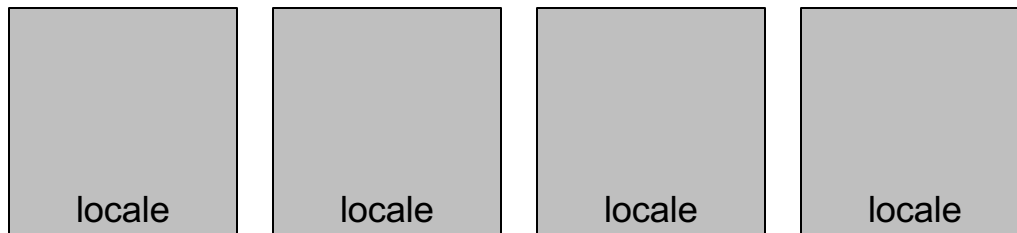
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# Hierarchical Locales



- So, we made locales hierarchical



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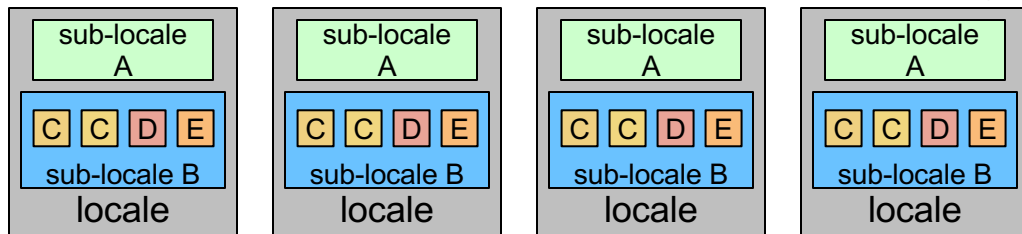
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# Hierarchical Locales

- So, we made locales hierarchical

- Locales can now themselves contain locales
  - E.g., an accelerator sub-locale, a scratchpad memory sub-locale



- Target sub-locales with on-clauses, as before
 

```
on Locales[0].GPU do computationThatLikesGPUs();
```

  - Ideally, hide such logic in abstractions: domain maps, parallel iterators
- Introduced a new multiresolution type: *locale models*

# Chapel's Locale Models

- **User-specified type representing locales**
- **Similar goals to domain maps:**
  - Support user implementation of key high-level abstractions
  - Make language future-proof (w.r.t. emerging architectures)



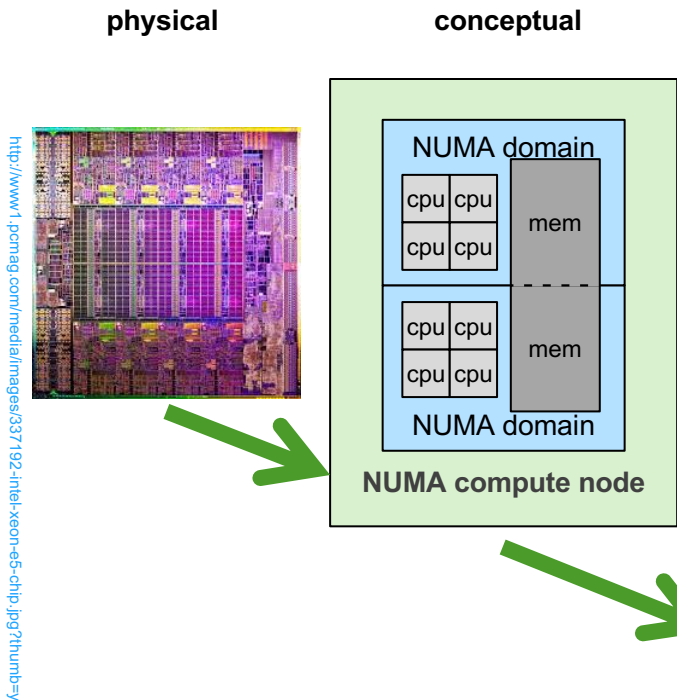
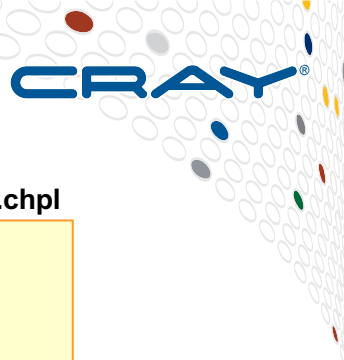
# Authoring a Locale Model



- **Creating a locale model:**
  - Create a top-level locale object type
    - In turn, it can contain fields representing sub-locales
  - Each locale / sub-locale type must meet a required interface:
    - **Memory:** How is it managed? (malloc, realloc, free)
    - **Tasking:** How do I launch and synchronize tasks?
    - **Communication:** How are data & control transferred between locales?
      - gets, puts, active messages
      - widening of pointers



# An Example: The numa Locale Model



`$CHPL_HOME/modules/.../numa/LocaleModel.chpl`

```
class NumaDomain : AbstractLocaleModel {
  const sid: chpl_sublocID_t;
}

// The node model
class LocaleModel : AbstractLocaleModel {
  const numSublocales: int;
  var childSpace: domain(1);
  var childLocales: [childSpace] NumaDomain;
}

// support for memory management
proc chpl_here_alloc(size:int, md:int(16)) { ... }

// support for "on" statements
proc chpl_executeOn
  (loc: chpl_localeID_t, // target locale
   fn: int,              // on-body func idx
   args: c_void_ptr,     // func args
   args_size: int(32)    // args size
  ) { ... }

// support for tasking stmts: begin, cobegin, coforall
proc chpl_taskListAddCoStmt
  (subloc_id: int,       // target subloc
   fn: int,              // body func idx
   args: c_void_ptr,     // func args
   ref tlist: _task_list, // task list
   tlist_node_id: int    // task list owner
  ) { ... }
```



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# Locale Models: Status

- **All Chapel compilations use a locale model**
  - Set via environment variable or compiler flag
- **Current locale models:**
  - **flat:** the default, has no sublocales (as in the classic model)
  - **numa:** supports a sub-locale per NUMA domain within the node
  - **knl:** for Intel® Xeon Phi™: numa w/ sublocale for HBM/MCDRAM



# Wrapping Up



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# Summary



- **Chapel's design uses a multiresolution philosophy**
  - High-level for productivity
  - Low-level for control
  - User-extensible for flexibility, future-proof design
- **Three key examples of multiresolution features:**
  - **Parallel iterators:** specify the implementation of forall loops
  - **Domain maps:** specify the implementation of domains and arrays
  - **Locale models:** specify the capabilities of the target architecture



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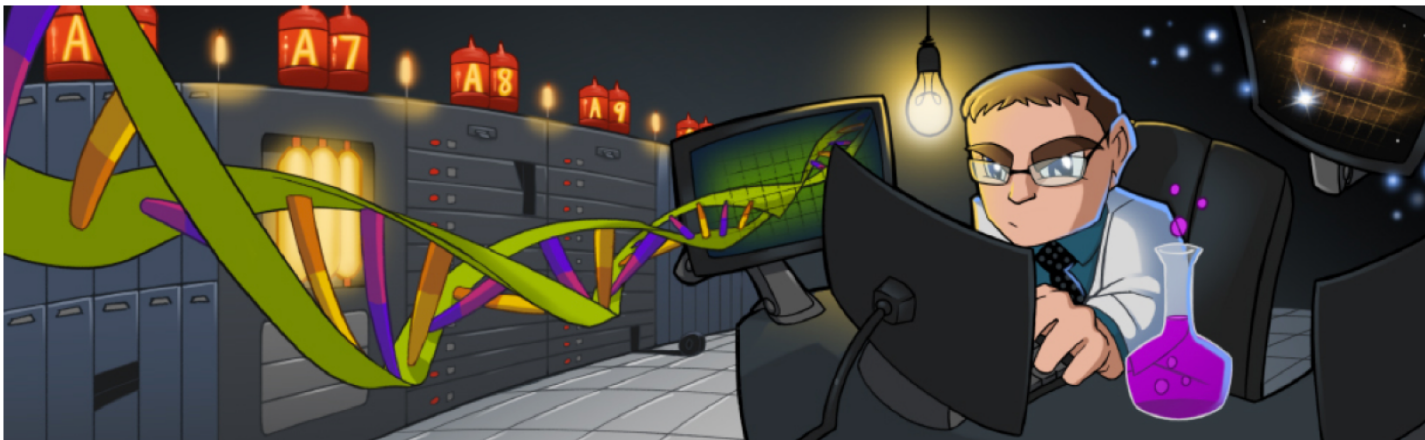
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## Chapel's Home in the Landscape of New Scientific Computing Languages (and what it can learn from the neighbours)

Jonathan Dursi, *The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto*



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# Quote from CHI UW 2017 keynote



*“My opinion as an outsider...is that Chapel is important, Chapel is mature, and Chapel is just getting started.*

*“If the scientific community is going to have frameworks for solving scientific problems that are actually designed for our problems, they’re going to come from a project like Chapel.*

*“And the thing about Chapel is that the set of all things that are ‘projects like Chapel’ is ‘Chapel.’”*

**—Jonathan Dursi**

*Chapel’s Home in the New Landscape of Scientific Frameworks*

*(and what it can learn from the neighbours)*

**CHI UW 2017 keynote**

<https://ljdursi.github.io/CHI UW2017> / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj0rwdLOR4U>



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# Chapel Resources



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# Chapel Central: <https://chapel-lang.org/>



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[chapel\\_info@cray.com](mailto:chapel_info@cray.com)



## The Chapel Parallel Programming Language

### What is Chapel?

Chapel is a modern programming language that is...

- **parallel:** contains first-class concepts for concurrent and parallel computation
- **productive:** designed with programmability and performance in mind
- **portable:** runs on laptops, clusters, the cloud, and HPC systems
- **scalable:** supports locality-oriented features for distributed memory systems
- **open-source:** hosted on [GitHub](#), permissively [licensed](#)

### New to Chapel?

As an introduction to Chapel, you may want to...

- read a [blog article](#) or [book chapter](#)
- watch an [overview talk](#) or browse its [slides](#)
- [download](#) the release
- browse [sample programs](#)
- view [other resources](#) to learn how to trivially write distributed programs like this:

```
use CyclicDist;           // use the Cyclic distribution library
config const n = 100;     // use ./a.out --n=<val> to override this default

forall i in {1..n} dmapped Cyclic(startIdx=1) do
  writeln("Hello from iteration ", i, " of ", n, " running on node ", here.id);
```

### What's Hot?

- **Chapel 1.16** is now available—[download](#) a copy today!
- The **CHIUV 2018** [call for participation](#) is now available!
- A recent [Cray blog post](#) reports on highlights from CHIUV 2017.
- Chapel is now one of the supported languages on [Try It Online!](#)
- Watch talks from [ACCU 2017](#), [CHIUV 2017](#), and [ATPESC 2016](#) on [YouTube](#).
- [Browse slides](#) from **PADAL**, **EAGE**, **EMBRACE**, **ACCU**, and other recent talks.
- See also: [What's New?](#)



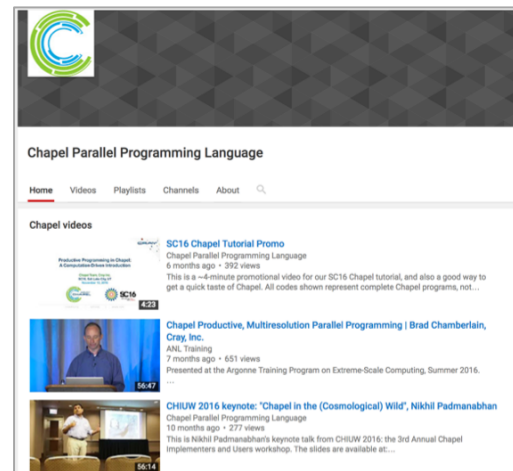
# How to Track Chapel



<http://facebook.com/ChapelLanguage>

<http://twitter.com/ChapelLanguage>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHmm27bYjhknK5mU7ZzPGsQ/  
chapel-announce@lists.sourceforge.net](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHmm27bYjhknK5mU7ZzPGsQ/chapel-announce@lists.sourceforge.net)



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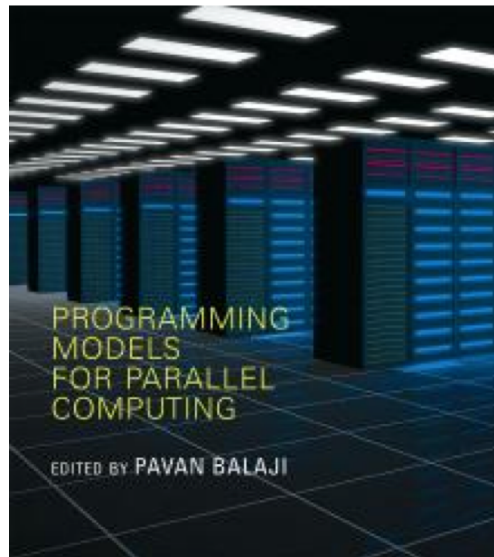
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# Suggested Reading (healthy attention spans)

Chapel chapter from [Programming Models for Parallel Computing](#)

- a detailed overview of Chapel's history, motivating themes, features
- published by MIT Press, November 2015
- edited by Pavan Balaji (Argonne)
- chapter is now also available [online](#)



Other Chapel papers/publications available at <https://chapel-lang.org/papers.html>



# Suggested Reading (short attention spans)

**[CHIUW 2017: Surveying the Chapel Landscape](#)**, [Cray Blog](#), July 2017.

- *a run-down of recent events*

**[Chapel: Productive Parallel Programming](#)**, [Cray Blog](#), May 2013.

- *a short-and-sweet introduction to Chapel*

**[Six Ways to Say “Hello” in Chapel](#)** (parts [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), [Cray Blog](#), Sep-Oct 2015.

- *a series of articles illustrating the basics of parallelism and locality in Chapel*

**[Why Chapel?](#)** (parts [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), [Cray Blog](#), Jun-Oct 2014.

- *a series of articles answering common questions about why we are pursuing Chapel in spite of the inherent challenges*

**[\[Ten\] Myths About Scalable Programming Languages](#)**, [IEEE TCSC Blog](#)

([index available on chapel-lang.org “blog posts” page](#)), Apr-Nov 2012.

- *a series of technical opinion pieces designed to argue against standard reasons given for not developing high-level parallel languages*



# Chapel StackOverflow and GitHub Issues



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Chapel, the Cascade High Productivity Language, is a parallel programming language developed by Cray.  
[learn more...](#) [top users](#) [synonyms](#)

2 votes  
2 answers  
22 views

Can one generate a grid of the Locales where a Distribution is mapped?

If I run the following code: use BlockDist; config const dimension: int = 5; const space = {0..#0..#dimension}; const matrixBlock: domain(2) dmapped Block(boundingBox=space) = space

asked 13 hours ago by barrymoo 52 #2

3 votes  
1 answer  
24 views

Is "[<var> in <distributed variable>]" equivalent to "forall"?

I noticed something in a snippet of code I was given: var D: domain(2) dmapped Block(boundingBox=Space; var A: [D] int; [a in A] a = a.locale.id; Is [a in A] equivalent to forall a in A a = ...

asked 15 hours ago by barrymoo 52 #2

2 votes  
1 answer  
45 views

Get Non-primitive Variables from within a Cobegin - Chapel

I want to compute some information in parallel and use the result outside the cobegin. To be my requirement is to retrieve a domain (and other non primitive types) like this var a,b: ...

asked Apr 18 at 1:15 by xSo0Dx 151 #1

3 votes  
1 answer

Is there a default String conversion method in Chapel?

Is there a default method that gets called when I try to cast an object into a string? (E.g. toString in Python.) I want to be able to do the following with an array of Objects, ...

This repository chapel-lang / chapel Pull requests Issues Marketplace Gist

Watch 45 Unstar 455 Fork 145

Code Issues 292 Pull requests 26 Projects 0 Settings Insights

Filters is:issue is:open Labels Milestones New issue

292 Open 77 Closed Author Labels Projects Milestones Assignee Sort

- Implement "bounded-coforall" optimization for remote coforalls area: Compiler type: Performance #6357 opened 13 hours ago by ronawho
- Consider using processor atomics for remote coforalls EndCount area: Compiler type: Performance #6356 opened 13 hours ago by ronawho 0 of 6
- make uninstall area: BTR type: Feature Request #6353 opened 14 hours ago by mppf
- make check doesn't work with ./configure area: BTR #6352 opened 16 hours ago by mppf 7
- Passing variable via in intent to a forall loop seems to create an iteration-private variable, not a task-private one area: Compiler type: Bug #6351 opened a day ago by cassella 2
- Remove chpl\_comm\_make\_progress area: Runtime easy type: Design #6349 opened a day ago by sungeunchoi 1
- Runtime error after make on Linux Mint area: BTR user issue #6348 opened a day ago by danindiana 15



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# Where to..



## Submit bug reports:

GitHub issues for chapel-lang/chapel: public bug forum

chapel\_bugs@cray.com: for reporting non-public bugs

## Ask User-Oriented Questions:

StackOverflow: when appropriate / other users might care

#chapel-users (irc.freenode.net): user-oriented IRC channel

chapel-users@lists.sourceforge.net: user discussions

## Discuss Chapel development

chapel-developers@lists.sourceforge.net: developer discussions

#chapel-developers (irc.freenode.net): developer-oriented IRC channel

## Discuss Chapel's use in education

chapel-education@lists.sourceforge.net: educator discussions

**Directly contact Chapel team at Cray: chapel\_info@cray.com**



# Questions?



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